

The decillionth degree of dilution is, by the codes, very common in homœopathic practice; and the following extract from Hahnemann's Treatise on Chronic Diseases, as given by Dr. Stratten, will show to what an extent the farce is carried:—

"Of homœopathic medicines—take one grain of those that are solid, (mercury being included in the number,) or one drop of those which are liquid; put this small quantity on about the third part of a hundred grains of pulverized sugar of milk in a porcelain capsule that is not glazed, then mix the medicine and the sugar of milk together for a moment with a spatula of bone or horn, and pound the whole strongly during six minutes. The mass is then detached from the bottom of the capsule and pestle during four minutes, in order that it may be perfectly homogeneous, and then rub down afresh during six minutes with equal force. Collect the whole of the powder into a body during four minutes, then add the second *third portion* of the sugar of milk, and mix the whole for an instant with a spatula, then triturate with force during six minutes. This is to be once more scraped together during four minutes, and rubbed down again for six minutes. Stir the whole together during four minutes, and add the last *third portion* of the sugar of milk, which is to be mixed by turning it about with the spatula; then triturate the mass powerfully during six minutes; scrape it together during four minutes, and the whole is finally to be rubbed down for six minutes. After the powder has been carefully detached from the capsule and pestle, put it into a phial, and let it be corked, and labelled with the name of the substance, and the mark  $\frac{1}{100}$ , which shows that the substance is in the hundredth degree of attenuation. To carry the medicine to the ten thousandth degree of attenuation, take one grain of the powder marked  $\frac{1}{100}$ , prepared as above, add the same to the third part of an hundred grains of pulverized sugar of milk; mix the whole in the capsule, and proceed in such manner, that after having triturated each third portion with force during six minutes, scrape the mass together during a space of four minutes. The powder, when thus prepared, is put into a well-corked bottle, with the figures  $\frac{1}{10000}$  marked on the exterior, which will point out its degree of attenuation. The same method is observed when this second powder, marked  $\frac{1}{10000}$ , is to be carried to the millionth degree of attenuation." p. 312.

They who are desirous of appreciating fully the views that are entertained in favour of this singular doctrine, as well as the doctrine itself, can accomplish the object by a perusal of either of the works before us. The German scholar will prefer the "*Organon der Heilkunst*. He who is not, the translation of Messrs. Devrient and Stratten, which, so far as we have collated it with the original, is sufficiently accurate. Versions have likewise been made into other tongues.

"The writings of the *illustrious Hahnemann*," says Dr. Stratten, "have appeared in five different languages, independent of the present version of his *Organon*; and in France alone, a translation of this work, from that of A. J. L. Jourdan, Member of the Académie Royale de Médecine, has reached a fourth edition."

R. D.

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XIX. *Outlines of Human Physiology; designed for the Use of the Higher Classes in Common Schools.* By GEORGE HAYWARD, M. D. Boston, 1834, 12mo. pp. 217.

The time is not far distant, when the study of physiology will be considered a necessary branch of common education. Independently of its being one of the most interesting of the natural sciences, it is far more useful, inasmuch as it is capable of a much more frequent and extended application to the ordinary

concerns of life, than many of the branches of knowledge which are now usually taught in our schools and colleges.

Every judicious means, therefore, of facilitating the popular study of physiology is deserving of commendation, and among these, one of the most important is a manual, in which the science is treated of in a plain intelligible manner—the facts that have been established in relation to it being carefully separated from every thing of a doubtful, or merely hypothetical character, and explained in language divested as much as possible of all technical terms.

Though the preparation of such a manual is, confessedly, a task of no little difficulty, it nevertheless appears to us to have been more nearly accomplished by Dr. Hayward in the work before us, than by the few who have heretofore attempted it.

It is true, that upon a few points connected with the subject we should, to a certain extent, question the correctness of the author's views, and in regard to some others, would require a more extended exposition of the facts and reasoning of the more distinguished physiologists of the present day. These remarks will apply more especially to that portion of the work which treats of the structure and functions of the brain and nervous system.

Taken, however, as a whole, these *Outlines of Human Physiology* confer much credit upon their author, and ought to be in the hands of all who would desire to know something of the nature and vital powers of his own body. Such knowledge is essential to the proper management of the physical education of children; as well as to an acquaintance with those circumstances by which the health and vigour of the system is impaired, and with the means by which they are to be avoided.

The present work is admirably adapted as an elementary treatise, for the use of the higher classes in our common schools; and this object Dr. Hayward appears to have had principally in view in undertaking its compilation. D. F. C.

*XX. Medicinalbericht des Königl. Preuss. Medicinal-Collegiums der Provinz Sachsen, für das Jahr 1830. Zusammengestellt von Dr. AUGUST ANDREAS, Königl. Medicinalrathe und Lehrer an der Med. Chir. Lehranstalt zu Magdeburg. Magdeburg, 1831. 12mo. pp. 96.*

*Medical Report of the Royal Prussian College of the Province of Saxony for 1830. Compiled by AUGUST ANDREAS, M. D., &c.*

Although the above is the first title of the volume before us, yet it appears, from a second title, (Auszug aus dem Medicinalbericht,) that it is more properly an abstract of the report referred to.

The work is divided into two parts, each of which embraces the report for six months of the year, and is arranged into five sections.

The first section presents an account of the weather, epidemic constitution, and prevalent diseases.

The second, observations on the most remarkable epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases which occurred within the province.

The third, observations on sporadic diseases, and remarkable cases in surgery and obstetrics.

The fourth, notices of the public institutions for affording medical relief.

The fifth, scientific medical notices.